UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/811/Add.3
13 July 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 123

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part IV)

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahbub KABIR (Bangladesh)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under item 123 appear in the report of the Committee contained in documents A/48/811 and Add.1 and 2.

2. As a result of General Assembly decision 48/459 of 23 December 1993, consideration of a number of documents under this item was deferred to the resumed forty-eighth session. The Fifth Committee continued consideration of the item at its 66th to 69th and 71st to 73rd meetings, on 6, 13, 21 and 29 June and 6, 11 and 12 July 1994. Observations and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/48/SR.66-69 and 71-73).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.70

3. The Fifth Committee considered the question of special representatives, envoys and related positions at its 66th and 67th meetings, on 6 and 13 June. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/26 and Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/48/7/Add.7).

4. At the 67th meeting, the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, on the basis of informal consultations, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Special representatives, envoys and related positions" (A/C.5/48/L.70).

5. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.70 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.71

6. The Fifth Committee considered the question of Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development at its 66th and 68th meetings, on 6 and 21 June. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/74) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/48/7/Add.8).

7. At the 68th meeting, the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, on the basis of informal consultations, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development" (A/C.5/48/L.71).

8. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.71 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.73

9. The Fifth Committee considered the question of decentralization of activities and resources in the fields of natural resources and energy at its 67th and 68th meetings, on 13 and 21 June. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/76). The report of the Advisory Committee was presented orally by its Chairman.

10. At the 68th meeting, the representative of Austria, on the basis of informal consultations, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Decentralization of activities and resources in the fields of energy and natural resources" (A/C.5/48/L.73).

11. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.73 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution III).

D. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.72

12. The Fifth Committee considered the question of the reorganization of the Department of Administration and Management at its 69th and 72nd meetings, on 29 June and 11 July. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/72) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/48/7/Add.13).

13. At its 72nd meeting, the Fifth Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Reorganization of the Department of Administration and Management" (A/C.5/48/L.72).

14. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/48/L.72 without a vote (see para. 22, draft decision I).

E. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.75

15. The Fifth Committee considered the question of the United Nations telecommunications system at its 67th and 73rd meetings, on 13 June and 12 July 1994. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/11 and Rev.1, Rev.1/Corr.1 and Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/48/7/Add.9).

16. At the 73rd meeting, the representative of Austria, on the basis of informal consultations, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations telecommunications system" (A/C.5/48/L.75).

17. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.75 with a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution IV).

F. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.76

18. The Fifth Committee considered the question of the Integrated Management Information System project at its 71st and 73rd meetings, on 6 and 12 July. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/12 and Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/48/7/Add.15).

19. At the 73rd meeting, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, on the basis of informal consultations, introduced a draft decision entitled "Integrated Management Information System project" (A/C.5/48/L.76).

20. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/48/L.76 without a vote (see para. 22, draft decision II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

21. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Special representatives, envoys and related positions

The General Assembly,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 2/

2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee as contained in its report; 2/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to clarify the position of special representatives and envoys appointed on a "when actually employed" basis, on special service agreement, on a one United States dollar-a-year honorarium or with no remuneration, and to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session such special guidelines as would need to be applied to these types of contractual arrangements, including a set of objective criteria for determining the level of such positions and the form of remuneration, to be used;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the number of special envoys, special representatives and other special high-level positions is kept at a minimum, that their functions and responsibilities are more clearly defined and streamlined, avoiding any possible duplication, and that current financial regulations and budgetary procedures are fully complied with, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

5. Decides that a period of 365 days shall be used for the calculation of the daily salary of high-level officials working on a "when actually employed" basis;

6. Takes note of the annex to the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General. 3/

1/ A/C.5/48/26 and Add.1.

2/ A/48/7/Add.7.

3/ A/C.5/48/26/Add.1, annex.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/228 A of 23 December 1993, in which it requested the Secretary-General to consider the creation of a new budget section relating to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s with recommendations for additional resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed forty-eighth session,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a draft programme budget section to include the activities mandated under programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, entitled "Africa, critical economic situation, recovery and development", currently administered under section 8 of the programme budget, and to submit it to the current session of the General Assembly no later than 10 July 1994;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in the draft budget section mentioned in paragraph 2 above any proposals for additional activities for the current biennium, together with proposals for the redeployment of appropriate resources to benefit in priority the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to review the resources allocated to the implementation of the New Agenda and to submit proposals for additional resources in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to utilize to the maximum extent possible the resources and expertise available within the Organization for the activities envisaged in paragraph 6 of his report. 1/

1/ A/C.5/48/74.

2/ A/48/7/Add.8.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Decentralization of activities and resources in the fields of energy and natural resources

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 47/212 B of 6 May 1993, in particular section II thereof,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/61 of 30 July 1993, by which the Council reaffirmed its support for decentralization in order to achieve a more effective distribution of responsibilities and tasks between global, regional and national entities,

Affirming that decentralization should have as its prime objective the efficient use of resources for more effective programme delivery,

Taking into account the views expressed in the Fifth Committee during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly,

1. Endorses the proposals of the Secretary-General contained in his report; 1/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of those proposals in the context of the budget for 1996-1997, as well as in the programme performance report for 1994-1995;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to include the related transfer of resources between sections and the resulting savings in the first performance report for the biennium 1994-1995;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the question of decentralization under review and to report thereon, in the light of views expressed by other relevant bodies, to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

1/ A/C.5/48/76.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

United Nations telecommunications system

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations telecommunications system 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

1. Emphasizes the importance of implementing a cost-effective global telecommunications system that would result in a reduction in the cost of such services, as presented in the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Takes note of the recommendations and observations of the Advisory Committee as contained in its report;

3. Approves at this stage only the proposal to establish a European hub station, to be situated at the most cost-effective location, and the proposal to upgrade the New York station with only essential associated works, within existing resources in both the regular budget and the peace-keeping special accounts on a fifty-fifty basis, without constituting a precedent for the future financing of this project;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, no later than 1 November 1994, setting out alternative ways of implementing the proposals contained in his report with a comprehensive evaluation, including comparative costs, based on bids obtained through the international competitive bidding procedures and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Heads of the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to develop plans, including sharing the capital costs thereof, for the installation of further earth stations as necessitated by the various United Nations activities, to avoid duplication and to maximize the benefits to all the organizations concerned;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to ascertain and report on the requirements of the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies for the use of the global network and to propose appropriate formulas for the equitable sharing, between the regular budget and the peace-keeping special accounts and, as appropriate, the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, of the capital costs of implementing the global network and the administrative overhead of operating the network;

1/ A/C.5/48/11/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

2/ A/48/7/Add.9.

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report on all aspects, including legal considerations, related to the establishment, operation and maintenance of a global telecommunications system and to ensure, in consultation with the Member States in which United Nations telecommunications facilities and equipment, including those in support of United Nations peace-keeping operations, will be located, that the establishment, maintenance and operation of a system owned and operated by the United Nations will be permitted without compensation;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, in presenting the costs of the global telecommunications system, to reflect all costs related to the provision of telecommunications services to peace-keeping operations.

* * *

22. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Reorganization of the Department of Administration and Management

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the reorganization of the Department of Administration and Management 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/ decides:

(a) To accept the proposals of the Secretary-General, subject to the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee as contained in its report, including the observation regarding the provisional redeployment of the Assistant Secretary-General post referred to in paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

(b) To draw the Secretary-General's attention, in particular, to the observation, as contained in paragraph 4 of the report of the Advisory Committee, that ensuring that the optimum level of conference services is delivered to Member States efficiently and in a cost-effective manner as well as the establishment of an effective procurement system are areas of concern which need to be addressed;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to ensure an integrated and coordinated handling of financial management issues in the framework of the new structure of the Department;

(d) To request the Secretary-General to reflect transfers of posts and resources between sections of the programme budget in the first performance report on the implementation of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

(e) To request the Secretary-General to carry out a review of staffing levels in the Department at the D-1 level and below, and to reflect the outcome of that review in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

1/ A/C.5/48/72.

2/ A/48/7/Add.13.

DRAFT DECISION II

Integrated Management Information System project

The General Assembly decides:

(a) To take note of the proposal contained in the letter of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions 1/ regarding the measures which, pending a detailed consideration of the sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the subject 2/ at its forty-ninth session, are intended to be taken to accelerate and ensure the completion of the Integrated Management Information System project;

(b) To request the Board of Auditors to conduct a special audit of the Integrated Management Information System project, bearing in mind the proposals contained in the sixth progress report of the Secretary-General, to review the causes of the delays and cost overruns and the method of procurement of goods and services and to analyse the ongoing expenditures and projected costs, including implementation costs, for the bienniums 1994-1995 and 1996-1997, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session in time for consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals;

(c) To authorize the Board of Auditors to obtain assistance from a consulting firm specialized in the audit and evaluation of such systems, if it deems it necessary;

(d) To authorize the Secretary-General to allocate additional resources to the Board of Auditors in order to carry out this audit within the overall level of resources approved for the biennium 1994-1995 in General Assembly resolution 48/231 of 23 December 1993.

1/ A/48/7/Add.15, annex I.

2/ A/C.5/48/12/Add.1.